

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1463

C O N F I D E N T I A L KUALA LUMPUR 5974

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR VN RQ

SUBJ: NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON PUERTO RICO

REF: STATE 229493

1. I CALLED ON MOFA SECRETARY GENERAL ZAITON TO DISCUSS
PARA 47 OF THE "LIMA PROGRAMME FOR MUTUAL ASSISTANCE AND
SOLIDARITY" WHICH DEALT WITH THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO.

2. DRAWING EXTENSIVELY FROM REFTEL I REVIEWED THE MANY
DEMONSTRATIONS OVER THE PAST TWO DECADES OF OUR COMPLETE
ACCEPTANCE OF PUERTO RICO'S RIGHT TO SELF-DETERMINATION,
CITING SPECIFIC VOTING PERCENTAGES IN REFERENDA AND ELECTIONS.
I WENT ON TO SAY THAT WE REGARDED PARA 47 AS AN
UNWARRANTED INTERFERENCE IN OUR DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, AND
WERE DISAPPOINTED AND DISPLEASED THAT FRIENDLY COUNTRIES
LIKE MALAYSIA ATTENDING THE CONFERENCE COULD HAVE ACQUIESCED
IN THE ADOPTION OF THIS RESOLUTION. I LEFT WITH HIM
AIDE MEMOIRE SETTING FORTH THESE POINTS IN GREATER DETAIL.

2. ZAITON SAID THAT NO ONE SHOULD TAKE RESOLUTIONS OR
CONFERENCE DOCUMENTS OF NAC VERY SERIOUSLY. CONFERENCES
THEMSELVES WERE CHAOTIC WITH NO STRUCTURE, SYSTEM, OR VOTING
PROCEDURES. NO COUNTRY, CERTAINLY NOT MALAYSIA, FELT IN
ANY WAY BOUND BY NAC "DECISIONS" OR "RESOLUTIONS." NAC
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GROUP

IS CRISS-CROSSED WITH CONFLICTING INTERESTS AND POSITIONS, AND AREAS OF THE CONSENSUS ARE FEW AND VERY GENERAL. EACH COUNTRY GOES ITS OWN WAY, AND ON U.N. MATTERS TAKES POSITIONS BASED ON ITS OWN JUDGMENTS AND INTERESTS. LAST YEAR'S UNGA VOTE ON KOREAN QUESTION DEMONSTRATES THIS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT GOM IS DISSATISFIED WITH MANY ASPECTS OF NAC. IT OPPOSED THE ADMISSION OF THE DPKR AND THE REJECTION OF THE ROK. IT HAS PROPOSED A SPECIAL NAC COMMISSION TO DEFINE WHAT A NON-ALIGNED COUNTRY IS. THE TERM, HE SAID, IS VIRTUALLY MEANINGLESS TODAY.

3. I REPLIED THAT HIGHLY VOCAL EXTREMISTS DOMINATED NAC PROCEEDINGS, AND WHEN COUNTRIES FRIENDLY TO THE UNITED STATES (AN ORIENTATION WHICH SEEMED NOW TO DISQUALIFY A COUNTRY FOR MEMBERSHIP) WERE SILENT IN THE FACE OF FLAGRANTLY HOSTILE AND DISTORTED RESOLUTIONS, WE CONCLUDED THAT SILENCE CONVEYED CONSENT. ZAITON ASSURED ME THAT THIS WAS NOT THE CASE AS FAR AS MALAYSIA WAS CONCERNED, AND THAT THE STATUS OF PUERTO RICO AS A PART OF THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT OPEN TO QUESTION.
UNDERHILL

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